

Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council Meeting Summary
March 14 – 15, 2007
MACo Building Conference Room
Helena

Members Present: Mary Dalton, Joyce DeCunzo, Leslie Edgcomb, Jim Fitzgerald, Gary Hamel, Don Harr, Barb Hogg, Bob Jahner, Esther Kramer, Bill Kennedy, Tammera Nauts, Tom Peluso, Jacob Wagner, Karen Ward, Mignon Waterman

Members Excused: Joan Daly, Suzanne Hopkins, Kathleen Nelson, Gerald Pease, Dan Weinberg, Pam Koeplin, Frank Podobnik, Gary Popiel, Boyd Roth, Dan Weinberg, Jo Shipman

Staff Present: Rita Pickering, Antonia Klein, Jane Wilson, Novalene Martin, Alison Hwong, Karin Billings, Dennis Cox, Lynn Jennings, Deb Matteucci, Jaime Stolte, Carol Davidson, Marcia Armstrong

Guests Present: Pamela Helms, Bonnie Adee, Bob Ross, Russ Meyers, Elaine Bruce, Heidi Spritzer, Gene Durand

November meeting summary was reviewed and approved by the Council.

PACT – Overview and update (Deb Sanchez)

Deb provided information and outcome data on the five PACT programs in Montana. The PACT programs are in Kalispell, Great Falls, Helena, Billings and Missoula.

Standing Reports

AMDD (Joyce DeCunzo): The HB 2 which contains the Governor's budget and the subcommittee's recommendations was tabled by the House. The House established six new budget bills in replacement of the HB2. There were an additional two budget bills added to the six which address the budget for the next biennium. It is unlikely that STEP will be approved for the upcoming biennium. The Behavioral Health Facilitator position has been approved but the money for the position was removed from the Department of Corrections budget.

Health Resources Division (Mary Dalton): Bonnie Adee has been selected as the Bureau Chief for the Children Mental Health Bureau.

The Systems of Care (SOC) meeting minutes were provided for background information. The DRA (Deficit Reduction Act) grant was approved. This will serve 100 youth that would have been served in residential care. The grant was approved but the Division has up to nine months to write the grant. The SOCS committee will have a meeting in May to evaluate the functions of the committee.

HB 98 (Franklin) provides for flexible funding for agencies serving SOC youth. This would include respite care.

SB 22 (Weinberg) provides for an increase in CHIP eligibility to 175% of federal poverty level (FPL). This passed the Senate and hearing has not been scheduled on the House side yet.

HB 557 (Caferro) raised the Medicaid eligibility for those youth who are 6-18 years of age from 100% FPL to 133%. Passed the House and has moved to the Senate.

Of major concern is that Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) will no longer pay the bundled rate for therapeutic foster care (TFC) and therapeutic group home (TGH). Of greatest concern is the unbundling of TFC.

The overall budget for this division is \$1 billion.

Ombudsman Report (Bonnie Ade): The Governor intends to appoint an Ombudsman by July 1. Brian Garrity will act as the temporary lead until then. Ellen Cox was hired as part-time temporary to take over Brian's role. Encourage anyone that is interested in the Ombudsman position to send a letter of interest to the Governor for consideration.

The trends are the same from the last report.

DOC/AMDD (Deb Matteucci): Draft strategic plan was handed out. Please send comments to Deb. An interim study has been proposed to study if diverting persons to substance abuse treatment would decrease offending and re-offending. Another proposal requests two pilot treatment court projects in Great Falls and Bozeman.

Other Legislation of Interest

SB 522 (Weinberg) allowing psychologist prescription authority failed.

HB 551 (Becker) would provide six days of payment for pre-commitment care. This bill is currently not moving through the process. With the AMDD 72 hour presumptive eligibility and this bill there is a potential for nine days of care paid.

HB 727 (Lange) would disregard the first \$1000 a month in income for determination of eligibility for Mental Health Service Plan (MHSP). This translates to persons earning \$27,500 annually or 268% FPL would qualify. At this point, there is no appropriation attached to the bill. This would add approximately 4500 more individuals to MHSP. This would create a waiting list

for adult services. This would impact the youth and the TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds.

SB 45(Weinberg) would create the Behavioral Health Inpatient Facility (BHIF). The funds for BHIFs were removed from the HB 808 budget bill but were in the HB 2 budget bill.

SB 93 (Pease) mandates additional funding for Service Area Authorities (SAA). This could add up to an additional \$70,000 to the \$45,000 base.

HB 734 (McAlphin) has a \$25 million fiscal note and would increase eligibility to 200% FPL and provide additional community mental health services. This would require a Medicaid look alike. This bill also impacts the children's system except for the BHIF.

HB 802 (Arnstzen) revises the funding for community mental health. This would provide five days of inpatient care; additional funding to provide three additional psychiatrists for each SAA; and loan repayments for psychiatrists.

Many bills were brought forward to the legislative session with little to no input or discussion with the Department. Some of the bill presented have unintended consequences for the system. There needs to be better communication and cooperation between all parties for the benefit of a comprehensive mental health system.

The Council and stakeholders participated in a “Visioning for the Future” session for the afternoon of March 14 and the morning of the 15th of March. Each member was tasked with taking the Visioning compelling statements to each of their constituents for review and comments. Comments are due to Marcia Armstrong by April 16.

ADRT 101 (Gene Durand):

ADRT is the Admission Discharge and Review Team which is chaired by Gene Durand. The ADRT has worked on developing better transition case management, supportive housing and adult foster care for those persons being discharged from the Montana State Hospital to the community. ADRT has been meeting for 31 years. Critical information is shared regarding admission and discharge. The data is collected on all admissions and discharges. 60% of all admissions have no payment source and 50% are not known to the mental health system. *The Council would like to receive, on a regular basis, data collected on admission and discharge.*

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)Waiver (Jane Bernard):

The HCBS Waiver was approved and is the second waiver targeting adults with serious mental illness in nation. The pilot project will be in Billings, Great Falls and Butte. Each community will have 30 slots.

Uniform Reporting System (URS) Tables (Bobbi Renner):

The URS tables were explained and reviewed by the Council. *Council requested a copy of the recovery markers.*

Bylaw Amendment will be done at the May 10-11, 2007 meeting.

Meeting adjourned